

**REMARKS:****I. Introduction**

In the Office Action mailed on February 13, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to 12, 22 and 26. The present amendment cancels no claims, amends claim 26, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 to 12, 22, and 26 remain pending in this application.

**II. DRAWINGS**

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) requiring the drawings to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner states that "the body portion expanded outwardly to form a bulge engaging the links (claim 26) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)." Applicant respectfully submits that original figure 3 shows the body portion (30) expanded outwardly to engage the links (22, 24) as specified by claim 26. In figure 3, the pre-deformation fastener is shown in normal lines while the post-deformation fastener 26 is shown in cross-hatched lines. Therefore, replacement drawings are not required. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

**III. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner stated that "the original disclosure had not adequately taught the "formation of a bulge" and entry of this is considered new matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification teaches the formation of a bulge. A bulge is "an outward curve or swelling. See the American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition. Figure 3 and the associated text in the specification clearly teaches that the body portion (30) is deformed in a manner that it is outwardly curved or swelled to engage the links (22, 24). However, in order to reduce the number of issues in dispute and advance

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prosecution. Applicant amended to claim 26 to delete the "form a bulge" language. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

#### **IV. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to 12, 22 and 26 under 35. U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chaban (5,738,475) in view of Arff (3,765,088). The Examiner stated in part that "Chaban does not disclose the specific fastener as described" and "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have substituted the fastener as taught by Arff for the fastener in Chaban, in order to have an oil-less, bushing-less, secure, yet rotatable fastener.

The rivet (59) disclosed by Arff has a very different structure than the fastener of the present invention and does not solve the problem which is solved by the fastener according to the present invention. The rivet (59) of Arff is a hollow rivet having a body section (61) with a head (63) at one end and an end portion (67) at the other end. The head (63) engages the exterior surface of a first side plate (33) while the distal end (67) is deformed to engage a second side plate (43). A tongue (21) extends between the side plates (33 and 43) and the rivet (59) holds the side plates (33 and 43) together about the tongue (21) so that the side plates (33 and 43) along with the rivet (59) are rotatable as a unit relative to the fixed position tongue (21). Arff states that the "end portion (67) which is located at the other end of the body section (61) ... is deformed as shown in FIG. 3, into an annular area of engagement with the chamfered margin (57) so as to unify the side plate members (33, and 43) into a roller assembly which is rotatable relative to the tongue." Column 3, lines 48 to 54. Because the components are "unified", the side plates (33 and 43) and the rivet (59) are not free to rotate relative to one another. This rivet (59) was designed to prevent such relative movement. It is noted that the rivet (59) does not

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engage the fixed position tongue (21) in any way and thus has no effect on relative movement or sloppiness between the "unified" roller assembly (33, 43, and 59) and the tongue (21). The tongue (21) forms an outer race for a plurality of bearing elements or rollers (31). The first side plate (33) has a flange portion (39) which forms an inner race for the rollers (31). Thus it appears that sloppiness in this interface is controlled by high precision components forming the bearing assembly.

In contrast, the fastener of the present invention provides a solution to the problem of sloppiness or free play due to tolerance build up in the situation where two members held together by a fastener and are rotatable relative to one another. Once solution to this problem is produce higher tolerance parts. However, higher tolerance parts are more expensive and thus this solution is not desirable. The Applicant provided a desirable solution to this problem by providing a rivet having hollow bore and a lip plastically deformed so that the body portion of the fastener is outwardly expanded by plastic deformation into contact with both of the links within both of the apertures to eliminate any "sloppiness" or free play without preventing the relative rotation between the links. It was the inventive insight of the present invention to discover this low cost solution to the problem of lateral free play.

Independent claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitation "whereby the fastener secures the first and second links to allow relative rotational movement between the first and second links while preventing relative linear motion therebetween in all directions perpendicular to a direction the fastener is extending through the first and second links." No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 1. As discussed above, the rivet of Arff secures the members together as a unified roller. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

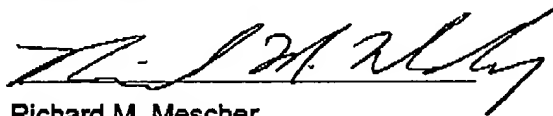
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**V. CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,



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